

## THE ARGUS.

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Tuesday, February 15, 1916.

## Rock Island—From River to River.

Woodrow Wilson is willing. What more is wanted to win?

Man serving on a jury in Nebraska was found to be crazy. Nothing unusual about that.

A fashion note says that silk was never more fashionable with women than this year. The price must have gone up again.

Really, if Mr. Tearney had come to Rock Island more often in the past, the present baseball muddle might have been avoided.

Roosevelt has left the country so that he can be in position to say on his return, commenting on the lead pipe cinch he is to have at Chicago. "Why, gentlemen, this is so sudden."

It's a wise farmer who tests his seed corn. Of course there will be some who will take a chance to their sorrow. All authorities agree that a good crop of corn this year depends upon the manner in which the seed is tested. Do not be an old fogey.

It is said that a single man in England are to be called upon to enlist this week. This being leap year, a similar call to single men, without the compulsory feature, however, is being sent out by maidens in other parts of the world to enlist in the matrimonial army.

It will be noticed that President Wilson did not express "profound sorrow" at the resignation of Secretary Garrison as he did on accepting the resignation of Secretary Bryan. There is no doubt that a warm personal friendship existed and probably still exists between President Wilson and William J. Bryan.

## FORTUNES OF WAR.

A list of 21 companies engaged in this country in the manufacture of war munitions, the nature of the material they supply and the amount of business they do, has been given publicly in New York recently. While gross orders are placed at \$1,405,000, it is pointed out that this amount possibly falls short of the actual total by many millions. One company which reported its orders as \$17,000,000 is said to have received \$90,000,000 worth of war business.

That the list is far from complete can be seen from the fact that the Remington Arms company and the Winchester Arms company, each generally credited with contracts for at least \$100,000,000 gross, are not included.

The United States Steel corporation indirectly is sharing in war business to an enormous extent, as is indicated by the statement of earnings, which show a profit of \$51,999,000 net for the three months ended December last. Record sales of shrapnel bars, other steel and wire make the steel corporation one of the leading beneficiaries of European orders, but the corporation is not classed as a war company.

Practically all the steel companies of the United States are in the same situation as the United States Steel corporation in respect to business originating in the war.

## THE SHOCKED VIRGINIAN.

Captain W. M. Meyers of the Virginia legislature is wholly in accord with the poets who sing of the lure of beauty half concealed, half revealed, but takes the stand that ruin, not poetry, is written where filmy lace and foamy lingerie swirl in the giddy dance. Therefore he has introduced before that august body a law intended to designate just to what extent fashion may expose the female form divine, to define the difference between propriety and indecency.

Having lived his life among the cloistered Virginia mountains, which chaste nature has clothed from summit to base with heavy verdure, Captain Meyers blushes at the immodesty of the bare rocks along the Virginia capes and yearns for a real mantle with which to cover their nakedness. Caught suddenly in the giddy swirl of social gaiety at Richmond he is shocked to breathlessness at the sight of silk hose beneath fluffy skirts and above feminine footwear. Tearing his glance away in horror to higher levels he is again paralyzed at the white surface revealed beneath a dainty chin in the collarless waist, and dropping his eyes demurely to what he conceives a happy medium the transparency of materials fixes him with its terror and leaves him all but too weak to stagger to a taxi and murmur "Home."

Convinced such revelations have been planned with deliberate intention to seduce the unwary and unwilling male Captain Meyers, in the anguish of his Spartan soul, has drawn up a law intended to curb such display and protect Virginia manhood forever from the wiles of the deadlier sex. Beginning, naturally, at the bottom he has provided that the ladies may extend the revelation of their person from the soles of their shoes all the way up to four inches from the ground. From there upward, to within three inches of the chin, fashion may have its sway, but a way directed by law, in which no diaphanous cloth of gauze may play its part of revealing while pretending to conceal. No, nor even translucent, but only opaque and continuous cloth.

## PARTNERSHIP FARMING.

The farmers of Winnebago county, through a conference called by the County Farm Improvement association, have worked out a standard farm lease, the fruits of their own and other experience both in this and other states, which they commend for general adoption, says the Rockford Register-Gazette. Its underlying purpose is two-fold: To make farming under lease more remunerative to tenant and landlord, and to shut out the practices which have steadily reduced farm fertility and profit of farming on a considerable part of the tenant farms of the county; in other words, to stop a great waste. If the standard lease works as it may be expected to do, under the light of the best practice, it is the starting point of a better order of things. The committee which framed the lease is made up of practical men, most of whom have worked farms under lease. The majority of its members have paid for farms out of farm earnings. They are all men of high personal and business standing.

The lease is what is known as the stock-share type, which aims to convert the production of the farm on the place through live stock; in other words, market the proceeds of the field on the farm itself, selling the proceeds through the live stock or live stock products, the latter as in dairying, for instance. It is well known that the latter tends to enrichment of the land and larger returns to both parties to the lease. In fact it makes the two parties partners in the conduct of the place. One objection urged against stock-share farming is that not all farmers are suited to stock raising, but most of the landlords are men who have themselves farmed and are experts in their line. Their experience is at the disposal of the partnership in the lease farming. Both are interested, each in having the lease satisfactory to the other, and to have the lease continuous. No partnership would work out the most satisfactory results if partners changed every year, no matter what the business. Farming by partnership is no exception.

The Winnebago county farm lease is only a recommendation, but it is founded on experience, which no man will deny. Many of its points are the prospective tenant and prospective landlord to work out between them. It is adaptable to their needs and their joint agreement; its provisions being purposely left elastic for that purpose. It is compulsory on no one, but is at the service of all. Doubtless it will be printed in the usual form, with blanks for filling in the joint agreement of future users, and after a year or years of use may receive additions or changes to suit the common convenience or availability. Its main features are in successful practice today in this country, in this state, in other states. The aim of the Farm Improvement association was to place it at the disposal of all who could profitably use it. That it is likely to become standard, not only for this but for other parts of the country may well be believed, from the character of the men who prepare it. They deserve well of the community for their public spirited labors.

HEALTH TALKS  
William Brady, M.D.

## Reserve Power of the Heart

Given a case of valvular defect caused by scar deformity following some former inflammation of the heart lining, or a case of permanent high blood pressure, or one of arterial hardening, or one of chronic Bright's disease, the important question in diagnosis and prognosis is the reserve power of the heart.

A normal heart has sufficient reserve power to withstand sudden or temporary physical strain, such as running to catch the last car home, going through an attack of typhoid fever or pneumonia, or chastising someone who misjudges one's character.

When you run for some distance you get short of wind, and then presently you get your "second wind" if you keep running and your heart is normal. This "second wind" is largely a response on the part of the reserve power of the heart. People with defective reserve power get short of breath on slight exertion and remain so until complete rest is obtainable, or even in spite of complete rest.

There are various factors which reduce reserve power in the heart. A leaking valve obviously makes greater demands upon the reserve power in order to keep sufficient blood circulating. A high blood pressure from any cause demands a more forcible heart beat to drive the blood through the arteries, and the extra work is done by drawing on the available reserve. Diseased kidneys, tobacco, alcohol, worry, irregular hours and overeating all tend to exhaust the heart's reserve. It is bad business to live on your savings.

Reserve power may be built up much as a bank balance is built up.

## Unmasking the Interests

Extracts from Speech of

HON. CLYDE H. TAVENNER

OF ILLINOIS.

In the House of Representatives

Wednesday, December 15, 1915.

Becoming a founder of the navy league is not the only way in which Charles M. Schwab has demonstrated the quality of his "patriotism." His devotion to his government is described at considerable length in a certain musty government document stored away in the archives of congress. It is styled "Violation of Armor Plate Contracts," and is known as House of Representatives Report No. 1468, 53rd congress, second session.

The report followed an investigation in 1894 by the house committee on naval affairs of charges against the Carnegie Steel company, then Carnegie, Phipps & Co. The evidence of fraud upon the government by the Carnegie company was large and convincing. The testimony showed that armor plates containing "blowholes" were palmed off on the government and later used on battleships of the American navy; that these cavities were secretly "plugged" and kept "concealed" from the government inspectors.

Mr. Schwab, one of the founders of the navy league, was general superintendent of the Carnegie company when this fraudulent work was done. When questioned concerning the plugging of blowholes, Mr. Schwab said (p. 647):

"Q. Do you know whether the company did really conceal the fact of blowholes in the plate?—A. I think likely that he gave orders that the defects in the plates be concealed from government inspectors. Mr. Schwab replied that he did not give orders that the defects be concealed, but added:

"I certainly gave orders that blowholes should not reject the plate." Again (p. 649), Mr. Schwab testified:

"Q. Do you know of any case where they plugged and filled without the knowledge of the government inspectors?—A. I do not, but I believe it was done."

Another superintendent of the works, W. A. Cline, testified that he almost invariably changed the figures so that false reports of the treatment of plates were systematically made to the government inspectors; that he discharged some of the workmen because they told the truth about this fraudulent work.

William E. Corey, now president of the Midvale Steel & Ordnance Co., and a director of Colonel Thompson's International Nickel Co., was shown to be in charge of the armor plant in which the frauds were committed. He testified that the tensile strength of each plate was stretched so as to increase its apparent tensile strength without the knowledge of the inspectors of the government; that he knew false specimens were substituted for the plates selected by the government

inspectors, but he considered it "a matter of small importance"; that plates selected by the government inspectors for physical and ballistic tests were retested before the tests were made and without the knowledge of the government inspectors. This fraud led the inspectors to believe that all the armor was as good as the specially treated plates secretly made after they had been selected for making tests.

Here is an extract from the testimony of the then Superintendent Corey:

"Q. Did you know of plugging holes being done without the knowledge of any of the inspectors?—A. Yes, sir."

"Q. Can you specify the time and what plate it was?—A. No; I can not; I did not keep a record of it."

T. Van Kirk, a workman, testified that on April 11 and 12, 1892, a plate, x-9 13 inches, was—"plugged and hammered up. Forty holes in top and bottom of plate. This plate was afterwards finished, stamped x-8 13 inches, April 23 and 24, 1892. Holes in top of plate run in wire four feet or more. The material in this plate was very bad, and in trying to plug, the plugs would fall in, but we finally doctored it up and it passed inspection."

In an affidavit Samuel Sheriff says:

"The plugging and doctoring of plates was generally done at night, when no inspectors were about, but I saw one fixed one day at noon."

T. F. Farley, another workman, testified in an affidavit that—"the plates were frequently imperfect, were full of deep holes and defects; frequently taken off the planer in the daytime and hidden or covered up until night so as not to be seen by the inspectors, and then worked upon in the nighttime. I have seen these defective plates passed, inspected, and shipped from the works to their destination."

G. W. Kountz says in his affidavit:

"I have known of heavy plates being plugged of holes from four to six inches, unknown to the government inspectors. This fraud has been practiced upon the government since long before November, 1892, and since September, 1893."

T. F. Farley says in his testimony:

"When I first went there they were plugged by taking cuttings from the same plates, \* \* \* hammering them in with a punch, and placing more and more in the hole until it was level, until it could stand no more plugging. I have run wires in to the depth of 18 inches into these plates, and I know that plates that I run a wire in 18 inches passed and are now somewhere."

(To be Continued.)

## ARMOR PLATE'S DEFIANCE

(New York World.)

Something more than momentary indignation should follow the threat of the armor plate makers that they will not tolerate competition by the United States government. We have national shipbuilding plants as a check upon private enterprise too often found in combination. The need of national armor plate plants, obvious for the same reason, becomes imperative when private enterprise openly threatens extortion and revenge.

Monopolistic arrogance has never gone further than in this instance.

Our armor plate makers are the chief beneficiaries of the traffic in munitions of war. At the expense of many friendships the government has supported them in their legal rights, but there is no denial of the fact that they are coining money out of blood and hatred. The hands that they now raise neutrally against a nation by whose neutrality they have profited are filled with the gains of a business that ignores the moralities and is content to stand upon the strict letter of the law.

These are the men who have complicated the question of national defense by their gluttonous attempt to bend the whole movement in their own selfish interest. With pockets stuffed as a result of the agony of Europe, they have sought to make of the necessity for reasonable defense at home an opportunity to oppress a people at peace. They want government to protect them, their property and their trade. They even expect government to go to war in their behalf. Yet a suggestion of independence on the part of the government is met by the terrorism of monopolistic prices today and of dismantled plants tomorrow.

What is new in all this is not the contemplated robbery of the people. For many years that was a matter of course and it may be so now. The investigation of 1896 showed that where as the United States had been charged \$540 a ton for armor plate, the product was regularly sold to foreign governments for \$249 a ton. At that time pressure was exerted chiefly upon the republican party, whose campaign, chests were regularly enriched. Now, with a different regime in power, it manifests itself in coercion and defiance.

These are the men or the successors of the men, also, who in 1894, on the testimony of naval experts, were fined \$149,484.94 by President Cleveland for delivering to the government armor plate that was notoriously defective, full of blow-holes, cracked and resurfaced, never honestly tested and far short of specifications in other respects. Some of this armor was intended for the ships that won the Spanish war. If it had not been detected it might even now be the weak defense upon which in a great emergency American life, honor and property would depend.

Congress cannot afford to ignore the spirit exhibited by this combination. The first step toward preparedness in this direction must be an assertion of national sovereignty that will not be forgotten by incorporated greed and incorporated disloyalty.

## CHORDS AND DISCORDS

IT ought at least be consoling to the chap who straddles the stool and orders his coffee and sinkers to know that there is no one laying for him with a job of arsenic to put him out of commission.

"PROFESSIONAL" dancers bared in Rock Island cafes, runs an item in a nearby newspaper. Not any more, brother. But what the writer likely meant to say was that they are barred.

Ha, Ha.

Jake Lauf is a resident of Habana, Ill. Jake is shelling corn this week.

## ADD FAMOUS COMEBACKS.

The punching bag.  
William Lorimer.  
M. Venizelos.  
The first of the month.  
Henry Ford.  
The discarded spring chapeau.

"LED by Sheriff to the Altar" is the way the Chicago Tribune headlines an item from Denver. No wonder effete easterners insist that Colorado is still part of the wild and woolly west.

YOU, little comma, or you may not think it unusual that New York police authorities should suspect foul play in connection with the death of Baff, a poultry merchant.

AS we put to press Alex Anderson is still living, a wireless to that effect having just been wafted into our sanctum from Hot Springs, where said Alex is, as the society editor would put it, escaping the rigors of our northern climate. A report had been circulated that Brother Anderson had got a ticket for his final journey, but he immediately let it be known that when he is ready to quit he would let his friends know far enough in advance so that the flower stores could make preparations.

CONSPICUOUS in the category of the uncouth is the person, and offenders are not confined to either sex, who slams up the telephone receiver without even saying good bye or thank you.

## LISTEN TO 'EM FABRICATE.

"I have told my friends repeatedly that I am not aspiring to public office." "Really, little one, you are the first girl I ever cared for."

"I never saw you look so well, Mrs. Jones. You're color is simply wonderful." "I am not in the habit of borrowing money from my friends. I just discovered today that my deposit at the bank was exhausted. I'll slip this to you the next time I see you."

"It makes no difference how late I come home at night I'm the first one to get up in the morning. Why, my wife has never touched the furnace. No good husband would permit his wife to do so."

## Marks of Distinction.

He was always neat appearing and large gold fillings in his teeth gave the impression that he may have had social standing at some time.—Chester (Ill.) Tribune.

IF there is anything in a name Miss Julia Somebody of Gresham, Ohio, ought not long remain single.

## Pointed Paragraphs.

A saloon with a side door has a system of double entry.

A little masculine remorse goes a long way with some women.

Man glories in his strength and woman in her new bonnet.

She is a wise woman who can smile at a compliment—and then forget it.

Clubs drive some men to matrimony and drive others to clubs.

The trouble with the man who knows it all is that he can't keep it to himself.

You can almost see the cracks in the voices of some people when they try to sing.

A girl can't believe it possible for her small brother ever to grow up and become a citizen.

When a man is discharged from bankruptcy his earthly debts are settled—but we are not so sure about those on the books of the recording angel.—Chicago News.

CAPTAIN von Papen has been decorated by the kaiser with the order of the Red Eagle. It was agreed in Washington that von Papen was a bird.

ANNA Held says she has a plan to stop the war. Her press agent does not explain, however, whether she has reference to domestic unpleasantness—her former husband now being Mr. Billie Burke—or the little affair that is irritating Europe.

"ART has nothing to do with morality," says the manager of the Russian imperial ballet, just arrived in Chicago. "The esthetic test is the only one that can be applied, but what do the police know about art?" After which society fell all over itself getting \$4 seats to assist in the test.

## Not Like the Olden Days.

The theory that a boy prizes his first pair of red top boots above anything else in the world doesn't always work out. A Fredonia real estate man put it to a test a few years ago by offering a boy a gold watch and chain for his new red boots. To his dismay the boy sat down on the floor and pulled off the precious boots. The real estate man couldn't back out of the bargain, and as the boots were of no use to him, he returned them to the boy along with the watch and chain.—Kansas City Star.

J. M. C.

## The Daily Story

A Best Seller—By Mary C. Atwood.

"Comstock has got out a new novel, I see," said Collins to Bartholow.

"Yes; Comstock is making money. How did he get his start?"

"By a misfortune."

"Come; cease to excite my curiosity and tell me the story."

"It was this way: Comstock tried scribbling at home, but made no success. Whether he wrote over the heads of the people, or under them, I don't know. His stories didn't sell. But Comstock had talent, and all he wanted was something to start him. One of his friends told him to go abroad. All Americans who succeed in literature make their living abroad, his friend said, and if Comstock was going to succeed he'd have to go too. There's a literary atmosphere there that doesn't exist here. Besides, the crowned heads take an interest in literary work, and a king may make an author if he chooses."

"Comstock was persuaded and went abroad. He picked up a living for awhile in London writing for the English magazine papers, then went on to the continent. He finally drifted to Constantinople, where he liked it so well that he stayed there a long while and learned the language perfectly."

"All this while he refused to perch on his banner, but poverty did. When he was pretty near starved in Constantinople he got a job to write a serial novel for a daily newspaper there. He was to fill two columns a day, no more and no less. The price he was paid for his work was just enough to keep him alive."

"It happened that he struck a vein that was natural to him, and a good one too. He became absorbed in his work and was glad to be absorbed, because it made him forget his troubles. But having only enough writing to do each day to occupy three or four hours, he spent the rest of his time planning ahead. He would lay out impossible situations just to keep himself busy solving them. As for his general plan, that was so intricate that no one would ever suppose it possible to extricate his hero from the entanglement into which an adverse fate had cast him."

"One day while he was at work on his story he was astonished to see two policemen enter his den. Without a word of explanation he was ordered to follow them and bring with him his manuscript. It occurred to him that something he had written in his novel about the government might have caused his arrest, but this could not be, for on his arrival he was not only permitted to keep what he had written, but was commanded to finish his work. That he might be well situated to do so, he was given pleasant quarters and plenty to eat and drink. At first he was so frightened that he could

not write, whereupon a member of the government sent him word that he was in no danger. This gave him courage, and he pursued his task.

"If he was anxious to kill time before his arrest he was now doubly so. He invented new complications and unraveled them. The situation grew more involved the nearer he approached the end, just as a stone revolved about a stick moves more rapidly as the string is shortened. He devoted every minute of his time and every fiber of his brain to his work and at the end of a few weeks after his imprisonment wrote the concluding chapter."

"When his story was finished he dreaded the long hours of confinement during which he would be free to brood upon his situation. He had not received the slightest information as to his offense. But he had not long to fret. As soon as his work was finished his prison doors were thrown open and he was permitted to go out a free man, besides being given a large bag of gold."

"As soon as he was released he made inquiries of officials high in the service of the government as to why he had been arrested and thrown into prison and whence came the money."

"And what do you suppose was the reason given? The sultan had one day picked up a copy of the newspaper in which his story was running and became interested in it. Too impatient to wait for it to come out from day to day in small quantities, he had taken a course to hasten the denouement."

"Comstock was just tickled to death. He sent in a request through one of the sultan's household asking if the sultan would give him a puff to print with the publication of his novel in America. He was told that the sultan couldn't come down to that, but Comstock hit on the expedient of writing out a brief account of the matter for the newspapers. This he translated into English and got it started in American journals."

"Well, he published his novel, of course, just as these notices about his being imprisoned because the sultan of Turkey couldn't wait to see how it was coming out were being copied from paper to paper, and everybody was crazy to read the book. One edition after another was run out by the presses so fast that the printers got dizzy, but couldn't supply the demand. Comstock made twenty or thirty thousand dollars out of the story, and publishers are waiting for him when he gets up in the morning to secure a contract for his next."

"What was the name of this Turkish story?"

"I don't remember the name, but I stood first in a lot of six best sellers."

## Sidelights on the European War

Melbourne, Australia.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—Prime Minister Hughes announced at a luncheon given him recently by the faculty of Melbourne university that the federal government was prepared to spend up to \$2,500,000 if necessary on the establishment of an institution for scientific research in relation to industry. Mr. Hughes said that it had been shown what potential wealth there was in Australia, but the Australian people were practically in their swaddling clothes—economically they were in their school days. He thought with a national laboratory Australians could utilize science in opening up new avenues of industrial effort. They could increase the productivity of the country from 15 to 20 per cent.

"The commonwealth government," he went on, "will endeavor to coordinate the universities in the various states in this direction. We are not committed to details. As far as possible we will avail ourselves of the ability and services of the scientific men in our own industries, but if necessary to strengthen the staff it can be reinforced from outside. I will make inquiries during my visit abroad, but in any case the government without delay will take the necessary steps to give the institution a start."

Mr. Hughes suggested that the Melbourne professors invite representatives of the universities in the other states to meet them in Melbourne at an early date to consider the whole question.

"The government," he declared, "will give \$2,500,000 if necessary. I say that deliberately. It is the best investment Australia could make."

Berlin.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—According to the records of the sick insurance office of Berlin it appears that the withdrawals of workmen from employment in shops and factories for war duty last year were far less numerous than had been generally believed. Especially was the reduction slight in the youngest and the oldest classes of men subject to military duty. Thus workmen between 17 and 20 years old represented on Jan. 1, 1915, 15.2 per cent of all the names on the lists, but by Oct. 1 they had been reduced only to 14.6 per cent. The reduction for the class between 41 and 45 years was from 8.5 to 7.5 per cent. Even for all the classes subject to military duty the average reduction for the nine months was only about 3 per cent. It is a remarkable fact that even now the class of young men between 21 and 25 is larger than any other one in the shops and factories of Berlin, constituting 15.5 per cent of all the names listed.

Vienna.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—Owing to governmental restrictions in the manufacture of cotton goods, a large number of factories in Austria-Hungary have closed down. Only those establishments con-

tinue running which are making materials for the army, and owing to the shortage of raw cotton even their output is limited. Hitherto, the manufacturers have been assisting the unemployed, but the general situation has now become so serious that the governments in Vienna and Budapest have been forced to come to the rescue of the workers. Both have agreed to grant subsidies, under the supervision of a joint commission composed of representatives of the manufacturers and workers, and officials from the ministries of the interior, finance and commerce.

Budapest, Hungary.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—Rats are being bred for the Budapest zoo in order to save the scant ration of horseflesh for lions and tigers, whose constant roaring shows the extent they suffer from the general shortage of food. Eagles, vultures and the wild birds are fed exclusively on rats. At times when horsemeat has been unobtainable, goats and the less valuable animals have been sacrificed to save the lives of the beasts that once ruled the jungle.

But the herbivorous animals have also gone through hard times, as wild chestnuts have been substituted for expensive hay. They have small liking for chestnuts. A herd of ten seals had to be killed, as no fish could be obtained for them. The seal meat went to feed the wild beasts. Two polar bears were shot—one because he refused to eat war food and the other because he grew so weak on the new diet it was deemed a mercy to finish him off. The bears added to the zoo's revenue in another way, as the privilege of shooting them was auctioned off to local sportsmen, one of whom paid \$60 for the honor.

Amsterdam.—Ten children are reported to have been killed by an aeroplane bomb explosion at Cologne. The youngsters were playing in a ditch near the flying ground when they unearthed the bomb from a rubbish heap. A sentry nearby shouted to the children to go away whereupon one of the boys picked the thing up and threw it at the man. The bomb burst inflicting mortal injuries upon all the children but the sentry was not hurt.

## Daily History Class—Feb. 15.

1805.—United States frigate Philadelphia, which the Tripolitans had captured in battle, was destroyed by Lieutenant Stephen Decatur and a body of United States seamen in the harbor of Tripoli.

1808.—The United States battleship Maine wrecked at Havana.

1915.—Holland sent to Germany and Great Britain protests concerning neutral shipping and the use of neutral flags by belligerent ships similar to those made by the United States on the 11th.